

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/786,457, filed May 29, 2001, which is now allowed.

Certain of the claims of the parent application were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,361,186. However, this citation has a filing date of August 2, 2000, which is later than the filing date of the present application of September 3, 1999. This citation is therefore not valid prior art.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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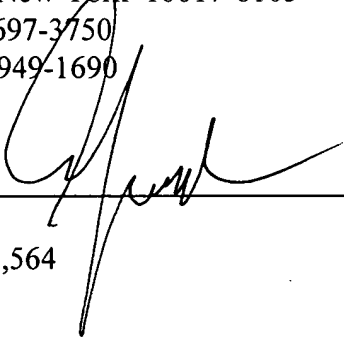
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